

REMARKS

Claims 69-70 and 76-77 have been canceled and new claims 79-84 have been added. Claims 60 and 78 have been amended. Support for the amended and newly added claims is found throughout the specification, as originally filed, and no new matter is introduced by reason of the current claim amendments. Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 60-68, 71-75 and 78-84 are under consideration.

Applicant has also amended the specification to include a cross-reference to a provisional application filed in July, 1999. Applicant's priority claim to his provisional application is reflected, *inter alia*, on the filing receipt for this application. No new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing amendment to the specification.

In the Office Action of September 11, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 76 and 78 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

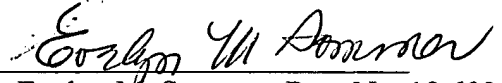
Consistent with the September '03 Office Action, the claims have been amended in order to place them in condition for allowance. In addition, three method of use claims have been added which are directed to disclosed methods for use of the claimed thermal composites.

In connection with amending the claims, the undersigned attorney contacted Examiner Melanie D. Bissett (703 308-6539) in order to be sure of the scope of the claims that would be allowable. The foregoing claims were drafted in accordance with those discussions. The method of use claims were not included in the discussion but, as presented, are dependent on claim 60 which recites a fluoroelastomer, as discussed with the Examiner. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended by her to the Applicant's attorney.

It is submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and formal notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully submitted,

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